

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 108

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Danice Picraux

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT, IN ADDRESSING JUVENILE OFFENDER RECIDIVISM, COMMEND KESHET DANCE COMPANY FOR ITS EFFORTS AND COLLABORATION WITH THE YOUTH DIAGNOSTIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER, JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE DANCE EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH THROUGH THE PROCESSES OF INCARCERATION, PAROLE AND REINTEGRATION AND THAT STATE AGENCIES ENCOURAGE KESHET DANCE COMPANY AND SIMILAR ENTITIES TO TAKE TANGIBLE STEPS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM RATES AMONG JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS WHO ARE POTENTIAL JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

WHEREAS, the cost of incarceration to the state is estimated at thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) per year per inmate; and

.169712.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, current recidivism rates for New Mexico juveniles
2 are at epidemic levels; and

3 WHEREAS, "The Impact of Arts Education on Workforce
4 Preparation", an issue brief developed by the national
5 governors association center for best practices, states that,
6 "For at-risk youth, that segment of society most likely to
7 suffer from limited lifetime productivity, the arts contribute
8 to lower recidivism rates; increased self-esteem; the
9 acquisition of job skills; and the development of much needed
10 creative thinking, problem solving and communications skills...
11 involvement in the arts is one avenue by which at-risk youth
12 can acquire the various competencies necessary to become
13 economically self-sufficient over the long term, rather than
14 becoming a financial strain on their states and communities...
15 research reveals that when young people, both general and at-
16 risk populations, study the arts they show heightened academic
17 standing, a strong capacity for self-assessment, and a secure
18 sense of their own ability to plan and work for a positive
19 future"; and

20 WHEREAS, this report asserts that, while arts education
21 can have a beneficial and enriching effect on all children, it
22 is this capacity for fostering a positive self-concept and
23 deepening students' involvement in the learning process that is
24 most dramatic for at-risk youth; and

25 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company has a nine-year history of

.169712.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 implementing dance mentorship programming for incarcerated
2 youth at the youth diagnostic development center; and

3 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company has developed a curriculum
4 for teaching math, literacy and conflict resolution skills
5 through dance to at-risk and incarcerated juveniles through in-
6 school and after-school education programs; and

7 WHEREAS, incarcerated juveniles currently participating in
8 Keshet dance company programs show a fifty percent improvement
9 rating on math and literacy skills, based on pre- and post-
10 tests given at six-week intervals, and a sixteen percent
11 reduction in conflicts with other inmates and staff compared to
12 nonparticipating inmates; and

13 WHEREAS, Keshet dance company is willing to continue its
14 work with at-risk and incarcerated youth and to expand the
15 scope of its work to reach more youth and to continue
16 mentorship relationships with juveniles through the parole and
17 reintegration process;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children,
20 youth and families department be requested to commend Keshet
21 dance company on its dance programs, its educational and social
22 curricula and its provision of mentorship relationships for
23 incarcerated and paroled youth, all aimed at reducing juvenile
24 recidivism rates; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and

.169712.1

underscored material = new
[~~bracketed material~~] = delete

1 families department report on its progress in collaborating
2 with Keshet dance company and similar entities to implement
3 dance and other arts programs to prevent incarceration in at-
4 risk populations and reduce recidivism rates for juvenile
5 offenders; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the secretary of children, youth and families,
8 the appropriate interim legislative committee and the
9 legislative finance committee.

10 - 4 -
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25